

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub, the hub including at least one recess disposed annularly about the hub;

a ~~cover~~ cap removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle, the ~~cover~~ cap including at least a pair of opposing protrusions for engagement with the at least one recess of the hub;

a cap holding device having a receptacle for receiving the cover;

disengagement means in the cap holding device for disengaging the at least a pair of opposing protrusions from engagement with the at least one recess of the hub by pulling the protrusions radially outwardly to detach the ~~cover~~ cap from the hub to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the ~~cover~~ cap remains in the cap holding device; and

a mechanical linkage system in the cap holding device for selectively retaining or releasing the ~~cover~~ cap from engagement within the cap holding device.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the disengagement means ~~mechanical linkage system~~ comprises one or more hooks for

engaging one or more handles on the ~~cover~~ cap for disengaging the at least pair of opposing protrusions away from the at least one recess to disengage the ~~cover~~ cap from the hub.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the disengagement means ~~mechanical linkage system~~ is actuated remotely from the cap holding device.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein the disengagement means ~~mechanical linkage system~~ includes one or more solenoids in the cap holding device for moving one or more hooks for engaging one or more handles on the ~~cover~~ cap for disengaging the at least pair of opposing protrusions from the at least one recess to disengage the ~~cover~~ cap from the hub.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the plurality of solenoids are actuated remotely from the cap holding device.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mechanical linkage system ~~means for selectively retaining or releasing the cover~~ comprises one or more solenoids having one or more hooks for engaging and disengaging the cap in the cap holding device.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the cap holding device comprises a weighted base.

Claims 13-21. (canceled)

22. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub;

a cap cover removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle, the cap cover including one or more protrusions extending radially inward of the cap cover into engagement with the hub and one or more handles corresponding to the one or more ~~internally~~ inwardly facing protrusions;

a cap holding device having a receptacle for receiving the cap cover; and

disengagement means in the cap holding device for disengaging the one or more protrusions by pulling the handles radially outwardly with respect to the hub to detach the cap cover from the hub and retaining the cap cover in the cap holding device to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cap cover remains in the cap holding device, the disengaging means for disengaging the cover comprising one or more hooks in the receptacle for engaging the one or more handles to move the one or more internally facing protrusions radially outwardly out of engagement with the hub.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein each of the one or more handles is substantially oval and includes an interior opening.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the cap ~~cover~~ includes at least a pair of opposing handles.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the one or more hooks is sized to extend through the one or more handles.

26. (currently amended) A safety syringe and cap holding device comprising:

a syringe having a body portion and a needle assembly interconnected with the body portion, the needle assembly including a needle with an injection end and a hub having a recess formed therein ;

a ~~cover-removable~~ cap removably attached to the hub and covering the injection end of the needle, the cap having a protrusion for engagement with the recess of the hub;

a cap holding device comprising a housing having a receptacle for receiving the cap ~~cover~~;

a ~~mechanical linkage system~~ disengagement means in the cap holding device for disengaging the cap ~~cover~~ from the hub by pulling the protrusion radially outwardly from the recess and retaining the cap ~~cover~~ in the cap holding device to allow the syringe and needle assembly to be withdrawn from the cap holding device with the injection end of the needle uncovered while the cap ~~cover~~ remains in the cap holding device; and

an actuator positioned remotely from the housing for actuating the disengagement means ~~mechanical linkage system~~ within the cap holding device.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 26, wherein the actuator is not integrally attached to the housing.